KID COLT OUTLAW

15¢ CC | 142 JAN



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

# KID COLT OUTLAW™

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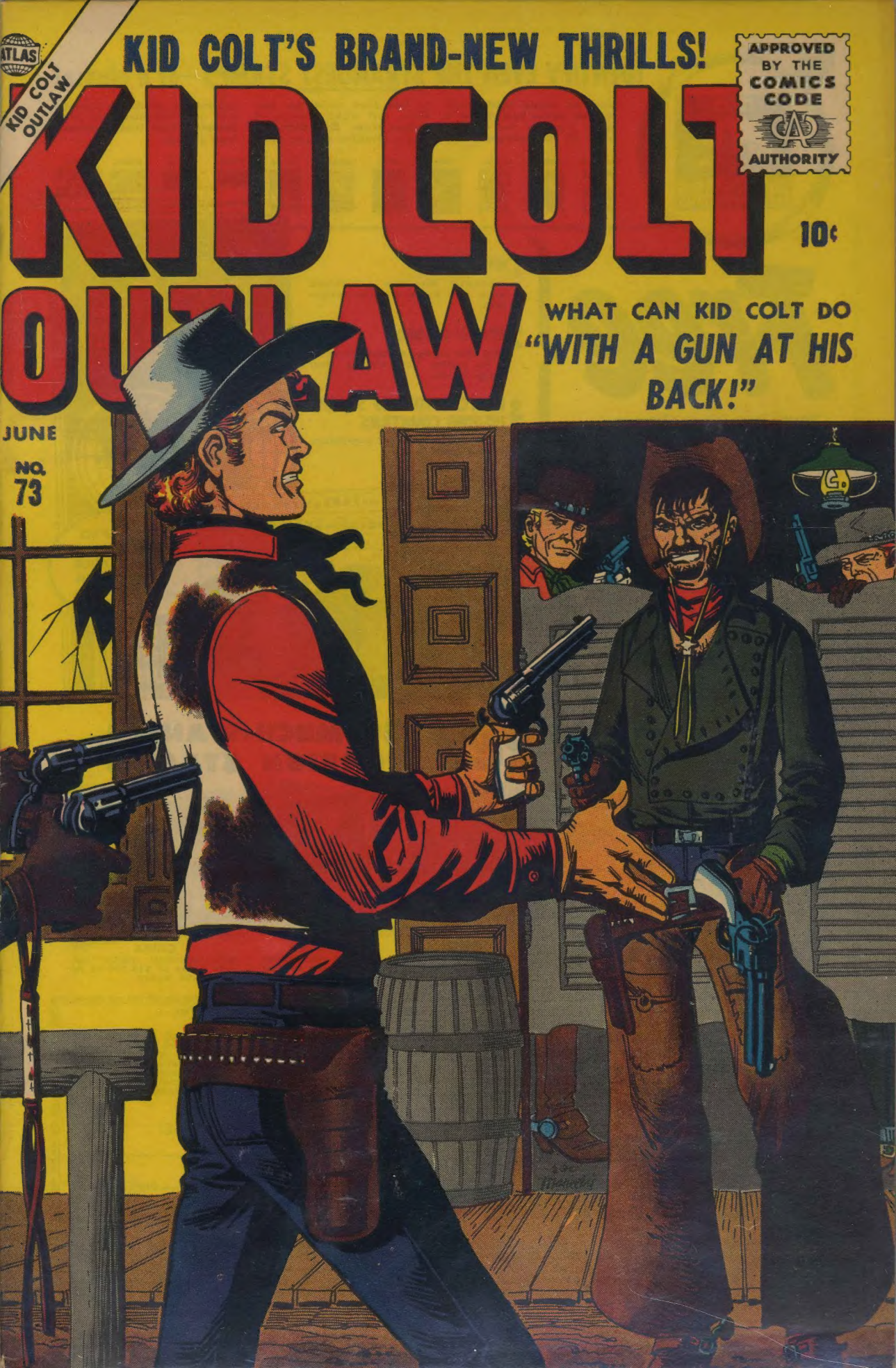
WESTERN ACTION EXPLODES BEFORE YOUR EYES!

DON'T MISS KID COLT in "WITH A GUN IN HIS BACK!"


ATLAS
KID COLT OUTLAW
KID COLT'S BRAND-NEW THRILLS!
KID COLT OUTLAW
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
10¢
WHAT CAN KID COLT DO "WITH A GUN AT HIS BACK!"
JUNE
NO. 73

# KID COLT OUTLAW

THE TOWN OF BLACK STAR HAD A GRIM CHOICE TO MAKE! IT COULD RISK ITS LIFE FIGHTING OFF THE GANGS WHO SOUGHT TO RULE IT...OR IT COULD DIE IN THE ATTEMPT! KID COLT FOUND HIMSELF THE UNWILLING DRIVER OF THE ATTACKING STAGE... "WITH A GUN AT HIS BACK!"

L-972

JACK KELLER

TIME WAS RUNNING OUT...THE KID MUST MAKE HIS MOVE SOON OR FIND HIS NAME STAINED WITH INFAMY...

DON'T HOLD BACK, COLT! DRIVE 'EM HARD!

IN A MATTER OF SPLIT-SECONDS, THE KID'S MIND FLASHED BACK TO THE EVENTS WHICH HAD SPAWNED THIS TRAGIC MOMENT... THE RAILROAD DEPOT AT QUICKSILVER CREEK...

ACE MORAN...JAKE HALTER...DUKE TANTRY! EVERY BUSHWHACKER IN THE TERRITORY IS WAITING FOR THE TRAIN! WHY?

MAKE YOURSELF SCARCE, KID! THIS IS A PRIVATE PARTY WAITING FOR THE SOUTHWEST SPECIAL!

EVERY RATTLER IN THE COUNTRY MUST HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE PARTY! WELL, I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHAT KIND OF CARGO THAT TRAIN'S CARRYING, SO I'LL STAY AROUND!

YOU HEARD WHAT BANDY SAID! NOW CLEAR OFF AN' DON'T GIVE US ANY TROUBLE!

ME AND TROUBLE SORT OF TEAM UP! I'M STAYING!

THE KID'S FISTS LASHED OUT LIKE BATTERING RAMS...

I SAID I'M STAYING!

DROP THEM OR I'LL BRACE YOU ON THE SPOT!

HOLSTER YOUR GUNS, COLT! IF YOU HAD TAGGED ANYBODY ELSE BUT THESE COYOTES, I'D LOCK YOU UP!

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER LOOK AROUND, SHERIFF! THERE'S A WHOLE PACK OF WOLVES LIKE THEM DRIFTING AROUND THIS DEPOT!

I KNOW THEY'RE HERE, AND BLAST JASON IS IN TOWN, TOO! BUT I CAN'T ARREST THEM FOR LOAFING AROUND THE DEPOT!

SUIT YOURSELF, SHERIFF! THEY'RE NOT HERE TO TOSS POSIES AT THE TRAIN WHEN IT PULLS IN!

LATER, ON THE STREET, NOT FAR FROM THE DEPOT...

BLAST JASON! THIS TOWN IS REALLY TREED IF THAT POLECAT IS LOAFING AROUND! SOMETHING ROTTEN'S BREWING IN QUICKSILVER CREEK!

HOWDY, ABE! JUST SAW BLAST JASON COME OUT OF HERE AND I WAS WONDERING...

I'M WONDERING, TOO, KID! JASON'S BEEN SENDIN' TELEGRAMS TO EVERY GUN-HAWK IN THE TERRITORY IN THE LAST TWO DAYS!

RATES

LOOK AT THESE! HALF THE POLE-CATS HE WIRED ARE DUE IN ON THE SOUTHWEST SPECIAL! I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

THAT TRAIN WON'T BE IN FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR! SIGNAL THE SWITCHMAN AT BENSON'S BRIDGE TO SORT OF SLOW HER DOWN! I'M GOING TO BE A PASSENGER!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AS THE SPECIAL SLOWED DOWN AT BENSON'S BRIDGE...

ALL RIGHT, STEEL! MOVE IN NOW SO I CAN BOARD HER!

GOOD BOY, STEEL! GO BACK TO TOWN...UNDERSTAND?

MOMENTS LATER, THE KID WAS REAPING A SUDDEN HARVEST OF HIRED GUNS...

KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE TABLE IN CLEAR SIGHT! YOU'RE THE IMPORTED GUNS JASON HIRED, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING OFF AT QUICKSILVER CREEK!

THROW THEM IN THE BAGGAGE CAR WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED! WE'RE APPROACHING QUICKSILVER CREEK!

I JUST SIGNALED THE ENGINEER TO GO THROUGH WITHOUT STOPPING!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

TALK FAST! WHAT'S THIS PARTY ALL ABOUT?

JASON AIMS TO TAKE OVER THE TOWN OF BLACK STAR BY SUNDOWN! HE HIRED US TO RAMROD IT FOR HIM BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON VISITORS IS UP!

ONLY ONE PASSENGER VAULTED OFF THE TRAIN AT QUICKSILVER CREEK AS IT SPED THROUGH...

LOOK! THE TRAIN AIN'T STOPPIN'!

YEAH, AN' IT'S EASY TO FIGURE OUT WHY! GET THAT HOMBRE, BOYS!

FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THE FIGHT WAS GOING KID'S WAY..

CLOSE IN ON HIM!

THE KID FELL UNDER A MASS ASSAULT...

HE'S DOWN! HAUL HIM OVER TO THE STAGE DEPOT! WE AIN'T GOT ANY TIME TO LOSE!

THE KID AWOKE WITH A THROBBING HEADACHE AND HAZY EYES...

YOU'RE FINALLY COMING TO, EH? NOW LET ME TELL YOU WHAT YOUR FUTURE LOOKS LIKE, COLT! YOU'RE GOING TO DRIVE THIS STAGE SMACK INTO BLACK STAR FOR US! GET TOPSIDE!

THE REINS OF THE JUGGERNAUT WERE IN THE KID'S HANDS! HE ALONE HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING IT THROUGH ON ITS MISSION...

DRIVE 'EM HARD! YOU'RE GOING TO RAM THIS STAGE RIGHT THROUGH THE ROADBLOCK OUTSIDE BLACK STAR!

MEANWHILE, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BLACK STAR...

HERE COMES THE WOLF PACK! GET SET! THAT STAGE FULL OF RAMRODS *MUSTN'T GET THROUGH!*

THE KID'S MIND WAS MADE UP! HE WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH OUTLAW VIOLENCE...

HERE GOES!

A KNIFE FLASHED IN THE KID'S HANDS! ONE LIGHTNING-LIKE SLASH CUT THROUGH THE TAUT TRACES...

WHAT?! WHY, YOU CRAWLIN' RATTLER! I'LL...

HIT THE DIRT!

THE STAGE CAREENED LIKE A CRAZY JUGGERNAUT AS THE KID MADE GOOD THE SHOWDOWN...

LAST STOP!

NOW WITH A MIGHTY LEAP, THE KID SPRANG FOR SAFETY...

HANG ON! THAT'S ONE BRONC YOU'LL NEVER BUST!

THAT HOMBRE SPILLED THEM SINGLEHANDED! WHO IS HE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT LET'S WELCOME HIM HOME!

IF WE HAD A KEY TO THIS TOWN, WE'D GIVE IT TO YOU! YOU'VE EARNED OUR UNDYING GRATITUDE! WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

JUST GIVE ME A ONE-WAY TICKET BACK TO QUICKSILVER CREEK, MY HORSE IS WAITING FOR ME THERE!

THE END

# KID COLT OUTLAW

STAY OFF THE STREET A WHILE, AMIGO! A SIX-GUN SHOWDOWN IS ABOUT TO PLAY OFF!

LIVERY

RATES
24 hrs $1.25
1 week $5.00

JACK KELLER

THE TOWN OF *BIGHORN* WAS IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING! A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS WOULD ALTER A WAY OF LIFE FROM LAW AND JUSTICE TO DISORDER AND ANARCHY, UNLESS *KID COLT* COULD PRODUCE THE MIRACLE OF...

**"THE MAGIC SIX-GUNS!"**

THE GUNS PRESSED HARD IN HIS SIDE AND THE KID REACTED WITH DESPERATE VIOLENCE...

MY RIBS JUST NATURALLY HATE GUN MUZZLES STUCK IN THEM!

TIP YOUR HATS TO A GENTLEMAN WHEN HE WALKS THROUGH A DOOR!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE MAIN STREET OF *BIGHORN* WAS WITNESSING A TRAGEDY...

THAT YOUNG LAWMAN IS JUMPY AND UNCERTAIN! HE'LL NEVER DRAW FAST ENOUGH TO LIVE THROUGH THIS!

BOOTS

AND THE SHERIFF OF BIGHORN *WAS* FINISHER. *THROUGH!*

IT'S NO SECRET NOW WHO THE BOSS OF *BIGHORN* IS GOING TO BE!

BOOTS

DUKE, YOU FROZE HIM OUT COLD! *YOU'RE* THE LAW IN *BIGHORN* NOW!

THAT SPINELESS LAWMAN NEVER EVEN REACHED HIS HOLSTERS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THOSE GUNS WON'T DO MUCH GOOD HANGING ON A PEG, SHERIFF!

THAT'S WHERE THEY BELONG!

*KID COLT!* I GUESS YOU'RE HERE TO RUN ME DOWN EVEN MORE! WELL, I CAN'T FEEL MUCH LOWER THAN I DO NOW, SO GO AHEAD!

I *NEVER* RUN A MAN DOWN, SHERIFF! I'M JUST MIGHTY CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!

THOSE GUNS ARE JINXED! THEY WERE BAD LUCK FOR MY FATHER AND THEY'RE BAD FOR ME! MY DAD DIED WITH THEM IN HIS HANDS, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!

AND BECAUSE YOU *THINK* THEY'RE JINXED, YOU'RE GOING TO LET A DECENT TOWN GET DRAGGED IN THE MUD? THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, SHERIFF!

I'LL TELL IT TO YOU STRAIGHT! WHEN THOSE GUNS ARE IN MY HANDS, I FEEL CLAMMY AND NERVOUS! I KEEP THINKING ABOUT MY DAD AND THE GUNS FREEZE ON ME!

I'VE HEARD OF JINXED GUNS... AND I'VE HEARD OF *LUCKY* ONES! RIGHT NOW THERE'S A PAIR OF MAGIC SIX-GUNS IN THIS TOWN AND THEY CAN BE HAD CHEAP!

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF A MAN NAMED STREAK JEFFRY?

WHO HASN'T HEARD OF HIM? HE WAS THE FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST! ARE HIS GUNS IN TOWN?

THEY'RE IN TOWN... THE LUCKIEST SIX-GUNS IN THE WEST... THE GUNS THAT NEVER MISS! I CAN SWAP YOUR GUNS FOR THEM IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES!

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL, KID! TAKE MY GUNS! WITH JEFFRY'S GUNS IN MY BELT, I CAN STAND OFF DUKE DALEY AND HIS WHOLE MOB!

IT TOOK THE KID ABOUT TEN MINUTES TO MAKE THE SWITCH...

I'VE GOT TEN MINUTES TO CLEAR UP A FEW OTHER MATTERS!

JAKE HAWKINS NEW AND USED FIREARMS

MEANWHILE...

HERE'S TO DUKE DALEY, THE NEW MAYOR OF BIGHORN!

MAYOR AN' SHERIFF, TOO! AN' I'LL RUN THIS TOWN RIGHT!

DALEY, YOU'VE GOT ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES TO MAKE GOOD YOUR BOAST! WHEN THE TIME'S UP, SHERIFF NICK PATTERSON WILL BE WAITING FOR A REAL SHOWDOWN!

HE'S HAD HIS TURN! IF HE WANTS TO TRY AGAIN, I'M READY! NOW YOU GET OUT AN' TELL HIM WHAT I SAID!

THE KID'S GUNS BEGAN A SYSTEMATIC HOUSE CLEANING...

I'LL TELL HIM, BUT FIRST I WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS FIGHT IS BETWEEN HIM AND YOU, WITHOUT BUSHWHACKERS IN THE WOODWORK!

REMEMBER, DALEY! YOU'VE GOT TWENTY MINUTES!

LATER...

STREAK JEFFRY'S GUNS! THEY BALANCE LIKE FEATHERS! I CAN FEEL MY CONFIDENCE COMIN' BACK WITH THESE IN MY HANDS!

DALEY'S WAITING OUTSIDE, SHERIFF! IT'S TIME TO START *USING* SOME OF THAT CONFIDENCE!

THE KID WENT OUT FIRST AS A GRIM DETERRENT TO FOUL PLAY.

SEND OUT YOUR LAWMAN, COLT! SIX BULLETS WILL DECIDE THIS ELECTION!

HE'LL BE HERE TO COUNT THE VOTES!

IT WILL BE A SHOULDER-HIGH DRAW WITH YOUR BACKS TURNED TO EACH OTHER! I'LL FIRE THE BRACING SHOT!

A GRIM SILENCE FELL OVER THE TOWN! IT WAS BROKEN ONLY BY THE ROAR OF THE KID'S GUNS...

FIRE AWAY!

SHERIFF NICK PATTERSON'S GUNS FLEW FROM THEIR HOLSTERS LIKE LIVING THINGS, AND HIS AIM WAS TRUE...

IT'S *YOUR* TOWN, SHERIFF!

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, IF YOU HADN'T GIVEN ME THESE MAGIC SIX-GUNS!

THERE'S NO SUCH THINGS AS MAGIC GUNS! THOSE ARE YOUR *OWN WEAPONS*, SHERIFF! I HAD *NEW GRIPS* PUT ON THEM! *CONFIDENCE* IS ALL IN THE *MIND!*

IS MY OWN G-GUNS? WELL, I'LL BE .

THE END

DAVE HOXIE HAD A DREAM...TO BUILD A PLACE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY IN THE VAST, SPRAWLING WEST...TO SET ROOTS AND HAVE A HOME! AND SO HE SETTLED ON A GRANT, BUILT A HOUSE WITH HIS OWN HANDS, AND BOUGHT SOME CATTLE! IT WAS THE BEGINNING! BUT TROUBLE CAME...AND DAVE WAS NO GUNMAN WHO COULD HANDLE THINGS WITH A FLASH OF A SIX-SHOOTER WHEN ALL HIS DREAMS AND WORK WERE ABOUT TO BE BLASTED-BY THE CRY OF ...

# RUSTLER!

DAD! I SAW A MAN DRIVING SOME OF OUR CATTLE FROM THE NORTH FIELD!

RUSTLER, DAVE! THEY SAID THE HILLS ARE FILLED WITH THEM... WAITING TO ROB NEWCOMERS LIKE US! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW, NORA! I JUST DON'T KNOW!

GOSH, DAD, YOU'VE GOTTA DO *SOMETHING!* YOU'RE NOT LETTING HIM GET AWAY WITH OUR STOCK, ARE YOU?

LOOKS THAT WAY, TIM! YOUR FATHER'S JUST NOT A FIGHTING MAN! WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME OUT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL DO SOME-THING!

WHAT? WE MIGHT AS WELL PULL UP STAKES NOW AND GO BACK TO TENNESSEE! THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST RAID! SOON'S THEY FIND OUT HOW EASY IT IS, THERE'LL BE OTHERS!

Mac Manley

DAVE HOXIE KNEW HIS WIFE WAS RIGHT! A PEACEFUL MAN HAD NO PLACE IN THE WEST! BUT HE ALSO KNEW THAT THIS WAS A BIG, YOUNG LAND, AND WHOEVER COULD STICK IT OUT WOULD ONE DAY KNOW PEACE AND CONTENTMENT!

I CAN NEVER GET MAD ENOUGH AT ANYBODY TO PUT UP A FIGHT! I JUST DON'T HAVE IT IN ME! WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE RUSTLER!

JUST ONE MAN, TOO! THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK OF ME... ONE MAN COMING ALONE TO RAID MY CATTLE!

HE'S TRAVELING SLOW, TOO! I'LL CATCH UP WITH HIM SOON, BUT WHAT'LL I DO *THEN*?

SUDDENLY...

WHAT'S THAT? ANOTHER RIDER.. PASSING ME BEYOND THOSE BOULDERS!

GOT TO GET MOVING! MUST BE ANOTHER RUSTLER GOING TO JOIN THE FIRST! I CAN'T HANDLE ONE... HOW'M I GONNA HANDLE..

THAT'S AS FAR AS ANYBODY GOES WHEN HE'S AFTER ME, PARDNER! *RAISE 'EM!*

LOOK, MISTER, I'M A PEACEFUL MAN! I CAME TO PLEAD WITH YOU TO RETURN MY CATTLE! I'M A POOR MAN, AND...

WHY, YOU'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF A CRY-BABY, SO SUPPOSE YUH JUST TURN TAIL AND HEAD BACK HOME!

I'M COUNTIN' TO THREE... AND IF YOU AIN'T ON YORE WAY BY THEN... ONE... TWO...

*YOU* RAISE 'EM, MISTER!

WHAT THE BLUE BLAZES! A KID!

GO AHEAD, DAD! GET HIM!

TIM!

I SWEAR YOU GOT MORE NERVE THAN YORE OLD MAN, BOY! I RECKON I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YUH A LESSON; THOUGH... MAKE YUH AS MUCH OF A SCAREDY-CAT AS *HIM!*

DAD! GET HIM!

FORGET HIM, SON! HE AIN'T GONNA HELP YUH! HE'S A PEACEFUL MAN! C'MERE, YUH YOUNG WILDCAT!

LEMME ALONE, YUH BIG APE! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

AT THAT INSTANT, SOMETHING HAPPENED INSIDE DAVE HOXIE!

LIKE FATHER... LIKE SON! YOU'LL BE AFRAID OF ME AFTER *THIS!*

*NOBODY'S* GOING TO BE AFRAID OF YOU AFTER THIS, RUSTLER!

LET'S MAKE THIS MAN-TO-MAN! I'M NOT A GUNFIGHTER!

PICK UP MY CATTLE THAT'S ONE THING!

HURT MY BOY THAT'S A MUCH *DIFFERENT* THING!

NO MAN'S A PEACEFUL MAN AFTER THAT!

*DAD!* I-I THINK HE'S HAD ENOUGH!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SON! LOST MY HEAD THERE FOR A MINUTE! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO A MAN OF PEACE WHEN HE'S REALLY RILED UP!

GOSH, YOU GOT HIM WITH YORE BARE HANDS, DAD! I'M AWFUL PROUD OF YOU!

AND WHEN NORA SAW HER TWO MEN RETURNING WITH THE CAPTIVE RUSTLER AND THEIR CATTLE, SHE KNEW THEY WOULD STAY IN THE WEST! FOR IN TIME, THE WILD WEST WOULD BE TAMED AND THEN, ONLY MEN OF PEACE WOULD LIVE THERE!

THE END

# KID COLT OUTLAW

COLT, I'VE BEEN [illegible] FOR YOU!

HE STOOD THERE WITH AN ARMY 44 WAVERING IN HIS HAND AS HE CONFRONTED KID COLT! BUT THE KID REMAINED MOTIONLESS, UNWILLING TO DRAW AGAINST A MAN WHO WAS . . . "DEAD ON HIS FEET!"

M-24 JACK KELLER

THE STRANGER TOOK ANOTHER STEP FORWARD, AND STILL THE KID DIDN'T DRAW

YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN STOP THEM'!

AND THEN THE KID MOVED, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

SOMEBODY GET A DOC! THIS MAN'S HURT BAD!

DON'T BOTHER WITH A DOCTOR! HE'S FINISHED! DOES ANYBODY HERE KNOW HIM?

SURE! THAT'S TODD LANE! HE RUNS THE PONY EXPRESS ROUTE BETWEEN HERE AN' EAGLE ROCK!

UNLOADED! NOW WHY WOULD A MAN TOTE AN UNLOADED GUN AROUND? SEEMS TO ME IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME!

LATER, AT A GUNSMITH'S SHOP...

DO YOUR IDEAS CHECK WITH MINE, KIP?

YEP! THIS GUN IS A REGULATION ARMY ISSUE .44! IT'S NEVER BEEN FIRED! NOW YOU COME HERE AND TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS!

THIS GUN WAS MADE IN HARTFORD FOR DELIVERY TO THE ARMY! SEE THEM SPECIAL ARMY NUMBERS STAMPED INTO THE GRIPS?

I SEE THEM, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH TODD LANE... AND WHERE DID HE GET THE GUN?

HOWDY! I NEED SOME NEW HARDWARE, AND THAT PIECE YOU'RE HOLDING WILL SURE FILL THE BILL! HOW MUCH?

IT'S MINE, AND IT ISN'T FOR SALE, MISTER!

THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT AIN'T GOT A PRICE! I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY DOLLARS FOR IT... AN' THAT'S HIGH!

NOT HIGH ENOUGH! KIP HARDING HERE WILL SELL YOU ONE LIKE IT, FOR HALF THE PRICE!

*THAT'S* THE GUN I WANT, AN' I SURE HATE TO BE DISAPPOINTED!

BETTER GET USED TO IT! YOU'RE *NOT* GETTING THIS GUN, BUT YOU MIGHT GET THE CONTENTS OF TWO OTHERS I'VE GOT HANDY!

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THE WORDS WERE LIKE SPARKS NEAR A POWDER KEG AND THE KEG EXPLODED.

YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU EVER SET EYES ON THAT .44!

AND YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU EVER TRY TO LAY HANDS ON IT, MISTER! NOW GET YOURSELF SCARCE!

KID, FOR AN ORDINARY ARMY .44, THAT MUST BE A MIGHTY PRECIOUS PIECE IF A MAN IS WILLING TO FIGHT TO GET IT!

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING, KIP! THIS GUN COULD TELL AN INTERESTING STORY IF IT COULD TALK!

AND AS THE KID STEPPED ONTO THE STREET...

SOMEBODY WANTS ME OR THIS .44 REAL BAD!

THEY ALMOST DAYLIGHTED YOU, BOY! BETTER GO OUT THE BACK!

THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADING! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO BEFORE I TANGLE WITH THOSE VULTURES!

LATER...

HOW SOON CAN I EXPECT AN ANSWER TO THAT MESSAGE?

MAYBE AN HOUR OR SO! THIS LOOKS LIKE OFFICIAL BUSINESS! SO THE FOLKS AT FORT SHOSHONE WILL ANSWER PRETTY QUICK!

THAT'S FUNNY! MUST BE A LINE DOWN SOMEWHERE! I THINK MY KEY IS DEAD!

THAT LINE WAS KILLED ON PURPOSE TO KEEP A DESCRIPTION OF THIS GUN FROM REACHING THE FORT!

THE KID LOPED DOWN THE PONY EXPRESS TRAIL IN QUEST OF AN ANSWER.

I'M CONVINCED TODD LANE SAW SOMETHING ON THE TRAIL WHICH COST HIM HIS LIFE!

A FEW MILES FURTHER AND THE FIRST CLUE SHOWED UP..

WHOA, STEEL! LOOKS LIKE SOME WAGON GOT S DETRACKED HERE! LET'S TAKE A LOOK DOWN THAT RAVINE!

IT WAS MORE THAN A WRECK! THOSE CRATES HAVE BEEN LOOTED! I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK!

THE PICTURE IS GETTING CLEARER! TODD LANE SAW AN ARMY AMMO TRAIN BUSHWHACKED! THAT .44 CAME OUT OF ONE OF THESE CASES!

MEANWHILE IN AN ABANDONED MINE

SO FAR THERE'S BEEN ONLY ONE LEAK, AN' WE CAN PLUG THAT ONE! BY THE TIME HE FIGURES OUT THE PLAN, WE'LL BE RID'N' HIGH IN POWER!

OUR GOAL IS TO TAKE OVER THE STRIP OF TERRITORY ARIZONA AIMS TO ANNEX! IF WE SET UP OUR OWN LAW IN THAT STRIP, THE AREA BECOMES OFFICIALLY OURS!

LET S GET GOIN! WE GOT THE MEN AND THE HARDWARE TO BACK UP OUR CLAIM!

YOU'VE GOT THE MEN AND THE GUNS, BUT NO HORSES! I'VE SPOOKED THEM ALL! YOUR IDEAS ARE GOING TO DIE IN THIS MINE!

TRY FIGHTING IN THE DARK! NOBODY'S GETTING OUT OF THIS SHAFT BEHIND SIX-GUNS!

THE BATTLE RAGED THROUGH THE WINDING SHAFTS AND TUNNELS OF THE ABANDONED MINE...

CHEW YOUR WAY THROUGH THOSE TIMBERS, YOU TERMITES!

THERE'S ROOM ENOUGH FOR JUST THIS DUMP TRUCK! HERE IT COMES!

I BETTER GO TOPSIDE AND START SEALING THESE COYOTES IN!

OUTSIDE THE MINE THE KID WORKED HARD TO SEAL UP ESCAPE EXITS

THIS OUGHT TO HOLD THEM FOR A WHILE!

HELP FROM THE CAVALRY AT LAST! I RECKON THAT MESSAGE GOT THROUGH AFTER ALL!

LATER.

WE'VE GOT THEM ALL AND RECOVERED THE ARMS ALSO! KID, I GOT AN OUTSIZED POSTER WITH YOUR NAME ON IT BACK AT THE FORT! I'M GOING TO HAVE IT FRAMED FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

THANKS, CAPTAIN, BUT PLEASE CUT OFF THE REWARD FIGURE! SOME TROOPER MAY GET IDEAS!

# KID COLT OUTLAW

THE TRAGEDY OF CIVIL WAR HAD STRUCK A SMALL FRONTIER TOWN WITH THE IMPACT OF A GREAT CONFLICT! THE SPARKS OF OLD JEALOUSIES AND HATREDS WERE BEING FANNED INTO CONSUMING FLAMES WHICH PITTED FATHER AGAINST SON! ONLY **KID COLT** COULD STOP THE MASSACRE AS HE GALLOPED THROUGH A...

## "GAUNTLET of HATE!"

THE KID RODE IN DESPERATION! TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AS THE TWO FORCES PREPARED TO ANNIHILATE EACH OTHER...

THERE'S GOT TO BE A CEASE FIRE BEFORE THEY DESTROY EACH OTHER!

AND THEN THE KID'S MIND FLEW BACK TO THAT GRIM DAY IN *NEW HOPE* WHEN THE FLAMES OF TRAGEDY WERE [illegible].

WHAT'S WRONG IN THIS TOWN? EVERYBODY'S HIDING BEHIND COVER AS THOUGH THEY'RE EXPECTING PLENTY OF TROUBLE!

YOU HIRAM OWENS' WILL YOU BE SILENT? AND YOU, ZEB LARSON WEREN'T YOU MY HUSBAND'S BEST FRIEND? WHERE ARE HIS FRIENDS NOW?

D.J. STEVENS' MY SON IS YOUR FRIEND! HE NEEDS YOU NOW! WHY ARE YOU ASHAMED TO LOOK INTO MY EYES? WHY DO YOU ALL TURN YOUR BACKS?

MA'AM I COULDN'T HELP HEARING WHAT YOU SAID! IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

I'VE BEEN REFUSED BY MEN WHO WERE OUR DEAREST FRIENDS AND NOW I'M OFFERED HELP BY A STRANGER!

IF I CAN BE OF HELP I'LL BE HAPPY TO DO SO!

IT'S MY HUSBAND AND MY SON! THEY'RE FIGHTING A DUEL ON THE STREET RIGHT NOW! IT'S LIKE A WILD NIGHTMARE BUT IT'S TRUE!

YOUR HUSBAND AND YOUR SON? JUST POINT THEM OUT TO ME, MA'AM!

THAT'S THEM! STOP THEM IN HEAVEN'S NAME!

STEP OFF THE STREET, MA'AM!

FFT

MEANWHILE.

SON, LISTEN TO ME BEFORE WE COMMIT THE MOST AWFUL SIN OF ALL! PUT AWAY YOUR GUNS! FATHER AND SON DON'T KILL FOR IDEALS

MEN HAVE DIED FOR IDEALS BEFORE! WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT FOR THEM... AND FATHERS HAVE FOUGHT SONS! DRAW!

SUDDENLY, LIKE THUNDERCLAPS FROM THE BLUE...

YOU'VE BOTH GONE LOCO! GUNS AREN'T SAFE IN THE HANDS OF HOMBRES LIKE YOU!

THERE'S NO ARGUMENT IN THE WORLD WORTH WHAT YOU TWO WERE ABOUT TO DO! MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW THAT A WOMAN'S HEART IS BREAKING OVER THIS LOCO SHOWDOWN!

THANKS FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, KID! I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT OFF! THIS WHOLE TOWN'S BEING EATEN UP WITH HATRED!

WHY? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! THIS TOWN HAS A REP FOR BEING A CLEAN PLACE WHERE MEN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER!

YES, THAT'S WHAT *NEW HOPE USED* TO BE! THE TOWN'S DIVIDED NOW! SOMEHOW THE EMBERS LEFT OVER FROM THE CIVIL WAR HAVE FLARED UP! OLD BATTLES ARE BEIN' FOUGHT HERE!

THAT KIND ARE ALWAYS *LOST* WHEN THEY'RE FOUGHT AGAIN!

WE CAME HERE TOGETHER, FROM THE NORTH AN' SOUTH.. YANKEES AN' REBELS! WE STUCK TOGETHER THROUGH ALL HARDSHIPS AN' BUILT THIS TOWN! NOW THAT'S ALL OVER!

YOU BETTER GO HOME AND REST UP, SHERIFF! I'LL MOSEY AROUND TOWN A WHILE!

LATER, IN THE TENSION-FILLED TOWN...

YOU JOHNNY REBS BETTER WATCH YOUR PROPERTY! THERE'S PLENTY OF YANKEE TALK GOIN' AROUND THAT A SHOWDOWN IS DUE! THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!

I HEARD SOME OF THEM SAYIN' THEY WAS GOIN' TO RUN EVERY REB FAMILY OUT OF TOWN!

WE'LL BURY THE LOT OF 'EM ON BOOT-HILL IF THEY START ANY-THING!

BRINK CASHIN AND DUKE HALEY! THOSE TWO SNAKES ARE WHIPPING UP WAR TALK! *THEY* MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN BY IT OR THEY WOULDN'T BE HERE!



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WHEREVER HE WENT, THE KID SAW THE SEEDS OF DISSENSION AND HATRED SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE.

THEY'RE STANDING AROUND LIKE MAD DOGS! IT WILL TAKE ONLY ONE SHOT TO IGNITE THIS POWDER KEG!

AND AS THOUGH HIS THOUGHTS WERE SUDDENLY TRANSLATED INTO ACTION, THE SHOT CAME...

THAT DID IT! THE FUSE IS LIT... AND IT'S A MIGHTY SHORT ONE!

THE STREETS OF *NEW HOPE* BECAME A SEETHING CAULDRON OF OPEN HATRED AND ANGER.

ALL RIGHT, YOU CARPET-BAGGERS! WE'LL MEET YOU AT POTTER'S GULCH! THE WAR IS ON!

NOTHING BUT A MIRACLE CAN STOP THIS NOW!

LISTEN, BOYS! YOU'RE MY FLESH AN' BLOOD! I FOUGHT WITH THE UNION AND I WON'T SEE MY OWN SONS SIDE UP WITH THE REBELS!

NO MORE TALKING, DAD! WE'LL MEET YOU AT POTTER'S GULCH!

HYSTERIA GRIPPED THE TOWN AS THE MEN RODE OFF! ONLY THE AGED, THE WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN STAYED BEHIND TO CRY...

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER... FATHER AGAINST SON! WHERE'S THAT *MIRACLE* THE TOWN NEEDS?

THEY'RE GONE NOW! THIS TOWN IS *OURS* WITHOUT FIRIN' A SHOT!

DON'T GLOAT TOO SOON, YOU RATTLERS!

THAT WAS THE PAST, AND THIS WAS THE PRESENT! A DESPERATE RIDE TO HALT TRAGEDY...

SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO BRING ABOUT A TRUCE BETWEEN THEM!

THE FIRING DIED DOWN AS A VALIANT FIGURE EXPOSED HIMSELF TO ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH!

STOP THE FIRING, YOU FOOLS! YOU'VE ALL BEEN *TRICKED* INTO THIS! WHERE ARE YOUR LEADERS?

THE DARING TRY FOR A TRUCE WAS ACCEPTED, AND MOMENTS LATER...

THEY'RE BACK IN TOWN NOW, DIVIDING THE SPOILS WHILE *YOU* WASTE TIME AND LIFE HERE! CLOSE UP YOUR RANKS FOR THE ENEMY IN YOUR BACK YARD!

HE'S RIGHT! *THIS* IS WHAT THEY WANTED US TO DO! CALL THE MEN TOGETHER!

THUNDERING HOOFS POUNDED THE EARTH, AS THE CHARGING COLUMNS ROARED INTO TOWN...

SWEEP 'EM CLEAN FROM ONE END OF TOWN TO THE OTHER!

RESISTANCE WAS DOOMED IN THE FURY OF THE ASSAULT...

THEY DON'T NEED ME ANY MORE! THE TOWN IS SAFE!

MAYBE THE MEN-FOLK WILL FORGET THIS DAY, BUT THE MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS NEVER WILL! BLESS YOU!

THANKS, MA'AM! THE TOWN'S FIGHTING *TOGETHER* NOW... ON THE *GAME* SIDE ...AND THAT'S WHAT REALLY COUNTS!

THE END

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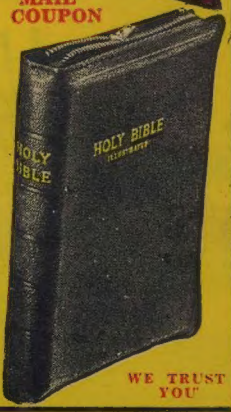


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